

# Akala - Knowledge Is Power Lyrics

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We claim we're lovin' this hip hop  
Are we ready to understand it  
In its fullest cultural state  
Beyond its useless branding  
Beyond the story that keeps us telling us the common myth  
People started rapping in the 70's what a bunch of shit  
Done with the talk  
Im lovin New York for impact in my heart  
But lets not pretend there was no foundation to this art  
Cos KRS-ONE and Bam would be the first ones to say  
Birth of hip hop runs far deeper within our veins  
Before Kool Herc came to New York pumping 100 watts  
Before the Watts Prophets, Last Poets and Gil Scott  
Before there was Jazz  
Before there was Blues  
Before there was Cab Calloway  
Before the whips the ships and all the tragedy  
Before we were stripped of Knowledge of our cultural anatomy  
You could be hip hop for generations you're still family  
Before there were slaves, fuck the bullshit about slave music  
You must have had a cultural base to even produce it  
The schools of Timbuktu they already knew  
The cycles of the planet and the motion of the moon  
150 years before Galileo check it  
And medieval Benin's in the Guinness book of records  
And all of them cultures there... they had a Griot speaker  
A story telling musician poet and history keeper  
Who had to memorise a couple thousand oral epics  
The tradition still exists today but it could get neglected  
And hip hop? Needs to be understood  
In its fullest context not just as a product of the hood  
Cos Miles Davis was rich and still played with the same feeling  
It's that cultural memory go and ask Steven  
Ella Fitz Gerald scatting's basically rapping  
If you know we lost our language then you know what has happened  
So when you hear somebody's rapping?  
The base of its is African  
Its not about excluding nobody its just accurate...

KNOWLEDGE... IS... POWER!  
Don't let them tell you 'bout yourself  
Never that's your wealth  
KNOWLEDGE... IS... POWER!  
If you dont feed your mind how can you live in health?  
KNOWLEDGE... IS... POWER!  
Don't let them tell you 'bout yourself  
Never that's your wealth

Look around hip hop's becomes this global voice  
But we must understand its roots so we can have a choice  
What we should do with it how to use it  
How to teach our students  
Cos Viacom is not our cultural institution  
But it will use this culture for its prostitution  
And our destruction, anything but a solution  
The ghetto dilemma's as bad as its ever been  
People are dead, just ain't rememberin'  
Roots of the rhythm and bass  
[?] thing is as good as the parts that assemble it  
Hamlet is writing, we think the pencil is  
People are sacred, we think the Temple is  
If i'm uncomfortable you shouldn't mention it  
Im superior so watch your sentences  
Don't disturb my privileged pensioners  
Living off ignorance of all the members of  
Every one of all the people we severed off  
Never one of all the people we're never soft  
Any gun or the better we sell it off  
Any sum of all the cheddar we level off  
Cultural suicide is a necessity  
To get you to worship celebrity  
Cos people with a strong sense of themselves could say that we'll never be

When they say that Knowledge ain't for you and your people  
They're tryna' keep you less than equal  
Cos deep down in themselves, that's how they really see you  
Less based on status  
Or the places you was raised in  
Or the shape of your faces  
Degrees or bank statements  
So we gotta reject Whatever they set  
They're never benevolent yet  
Yet we sit at a desk Collecting a check  
No need to ever respect  
Mess coupled by death  
Tripled by theft  
Look at the West and the rest  
Transfer knowledge transfer the power then tell me what is left  
Bliss? No ignorance  
It just just his head that is numbing the pain  
Only the clever shit should ever change  
Our development towards an aim  
No bro, push of the chain  
Training the muscle is training the brain  
It is the same if you push through the pain  
Once you are strong you are never the same  
Your manner your swagger  
The way that you stand up  
The way that you work with your boys as a rapper

I've seen a killer convert from a trapper  
To working with yout dem and tellin' em man up  
I am not telling you it will get better  
But if we are to fight we must keep our jab up

C'mon my people stand up